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## Mission

**Protect and enhance the natural beauty of Monroe through the development of a vibrant system of parks, open space and trails. Provide citizens of all age's positive recreational opportunities in clean, safe and accessible recreation facilities. Enhance health, quality living and the natural environment for future generations.**

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## Department Update

### **Snohomish County Remains in Phase 2**

On June 28, 2020 Governor Jay Inslee extended the pause indefinitely on counties moving ahead in the Safe Start Washington plan resulting in Snohomish County staying in Phase 2. Phase 2 allows for park facilities to be open. These include: Wiggly Field Dog Park, Board and Blade Skate Park, tennis courts, basketball courts, restrooms, playgrounds, covered shelters (up to gathering limit), and sports fields for limited practices in compliance with the Governor's guidelines for sporting activities.

To find more information about City Operations during the COVID 19 pandemic visit go [here](#).

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### **Operations**

Parks and Recreation Department team members have been busy in September with recreation use of our park's facilities and athletic fields, as well as scheduled maintenance, cleaning and repair work on facilities, equipment and landscaped areas. Replacing fixtures and furnishings are routine and on-going Parks tasks.



Crew members working on annual ball field repairs and renovation work. Re-establishing proper grades to facilitate drainage.

## Community Thanks

Our Parks Department has received two compliments from community members that we'd like to share, the first:

Ruth Erickson, a long time Monroe resident, called to say wonderful Lake Tye is. She has been wanting to call for a long time and finally just picked up the phone and called. She is so proud of Monroe and the wonderful job they have done with the Park and Lake. She loves to go and sit at the Lake and watch all the people. She wanted me to pass that along to everyone.

A second thanks on Facebook:

"Thanks to the Monroe Parks department: I called about a week ago to get a doggie bag station at the small park in the Farm development. Well it's in already, thanks again." - Lauren Marie Carlson

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## New GameNetic Toy at Lewis Street Park

In September Parks Department team members installed a new game console called The GameNetic at Lewis Street Park. This toy was funded and purchased prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. To use the game, all you have to do is pump the foot pedal to power-up and follow the audio instructions for 4 diverse games. To learn more about the game, and to see an informational video on how it's used, visit the [GameNetic website](#).



Siblings, Ryder (left) and Reese (right) playing with the new GameNetic toy.

## Farmers Market

In August and September, the Monroe Police Department and Parks Department partnered together to staff a City booth at the Monroe Farmers Market on Wednesday's from 2-7pm. The Police Department brought a new informational activity each week and both departments helped to answer questions from the community. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen, it was a great success.



## Monroe Park Board

The Monroe Park Board held a joint meeting with the Monroe Planning Commission to listen to a presentation on the introductory project goals of the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update. See **Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan Update** below.

## Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan Update

The City of Monroe has kicked-off the project with contracted consultant firm [MIG of Seattle](#); and have begun the inventory and assessment phases.

To date, MIG have been collecting inventory information, background, planning documents and are creating a GIS parks, trails, open spaces & facilities base map. Parks staff have led the consultants on a physical tour of our parks and trails. MIG conducted an introductory project goals and SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) Analysis in a joint Park Board/Planning Commission Zoom meeting on Monday, September 14, 2020. [View the presentation from the meeting.](#) This will be followed by individual Stakeholder and Key Leader Videoconference Interviews to be scheduled during October.

The entire planning process has four phases: Inventory, Assessment, Strategies, and Action Plan and is expected to be completed December 2021. There will be several public outreach and survey opportunities to get our community's important input to shape the priorities of the plan.

## North Hill Area Park Story

The City of Monroe is taking steps to acquire 5 acres of land to develop into a public neighborhood park in the City's rapidly-developing North Hill Area of Monroe. Because of planned development, rapid growth and the resulting underserved population, acquiring parkland in this area has been listed as a high priority in our Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) plans for over a decade. Our current PROS Plan states that it is critical to reach the City's Level of Service Objective in the North Hill area of town. In August 2020, the Monroe City Council authorized Mayor Thomas to sign a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the 5-acre acquisition, located at the southwest corner of 191<sup>st</sup> Ave & 134<sup>th</sup> St. Staff have applied for \$1 million state grant funding for the acquisition to fund the acquisition, appraised at \$1.3 million, with the remaining \$300,000 budgeted within the Parks Capital Improvement Project fund.

[View the North Hill Park story in this link](#)





Overhead drone shots of the North Hill Park property.

### Park Planner Vacancy

Last month, our Parks Senior Planner, Denise Johns, has accepted a similar job opportunity with the City of Santa Barbara, California. Denise started working for the department in July of 2019. We have appreciated her talents and contributions to our department and community, and we wish her well on her next adventure. We are currently advertising to fill the critical, now-vacant position within the department. For more information visit [www.monroewa.gov/jobs](http://www.monroewa.gov/jobs)

### City Parks Unmarked Trails Inspections

In 2017, a weekly maintenance monitoring emphasis by park staff was initiated on unmarked trails at Al Borlin and Sky River Parks to identify and resolve, in cooperation with our Police Department, any unlawful encampments that may occur in City parks. Attached is the comprehensive data from 2017 to the present. The following is a summary of data for the past month:

#### Locations: Al Borlin Park, Sky River Park

DATE	TOTAL LABOR HOURS	# BAGS OF LITTER COLLECTED	NOTES
9/1	16	5	
9/8	7.5	4	
9/15	7	6	
9/22	8	0	
9/29	6.5	2	
<b>Avg.</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3.4</b>	
See attached Parks Homeless Response Data 2017- 2020			

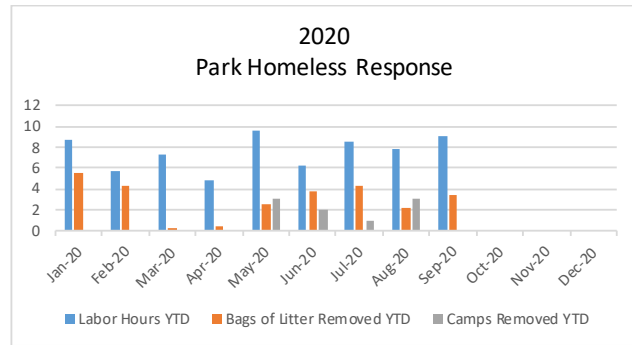
### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Due to COVID-19 the City of Monroe's volunteering has been temporarily suspended. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Katie Darrow at (360) 863-4519.

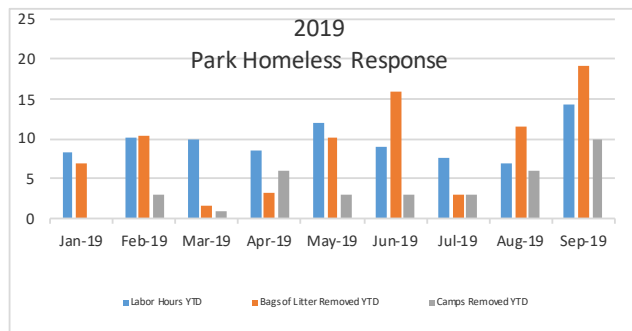
Visit the City website [www.monroewa.gov](http://www.monroewa.gov) for information on upcoming programs and events.

**2017-2020**  
**Park Homelessness Response**

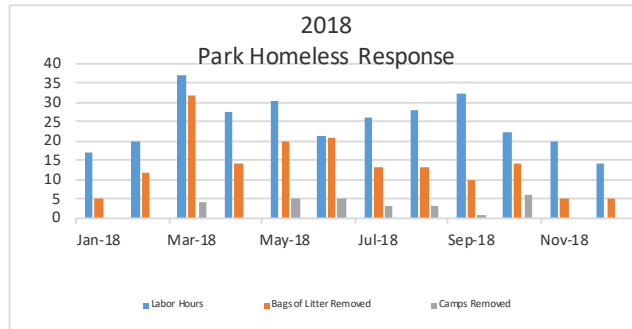
	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-20	8.75	5.5	0
Feb-20	5.67	4.33	0
Mar-20	7.25	0.25	0
Apr-20	4.9	0.4	0
May-20	9.625	2.5	3
Jun-20	6.25	3.75	2
Jul-20	8.5	4.25	1
Aug-20	7.875	2.25	3
Sep-20	9	3.4	0
Oct-20			
Nov-20			
Dec-20			
<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>67.82</b>	<b>26.63</b>	<b>9</b>



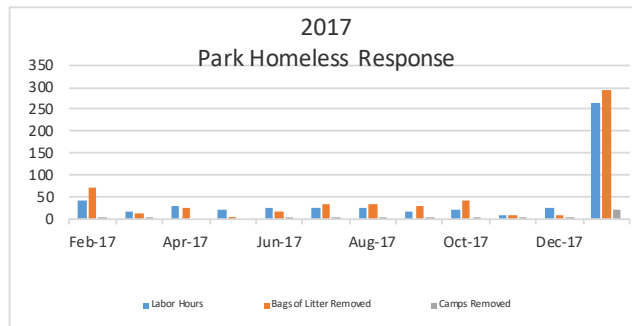
	Labor Hours YTD	Bags of Litter Removed YTD	Camps Removed YTD
Jan-19	8.3	7	
Feb-19	10.2	10.3	3
Mar-19	10	1.5	1
Apr-19	8.5	3.25	6
May-19	11.9	10.25	3
Jun-19	9	16	3
Jul-19	7.5	3	3
Aug-19	6.9	11.5	6
Sep-19	14.25	19.25	10
Oct-19	7.3	19.4	6
Nov-19	7.5	0.875	4
Dec-19	7.3	1.2	3
<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>108.65</b>	<b>103.525</b>	<b>48</b>



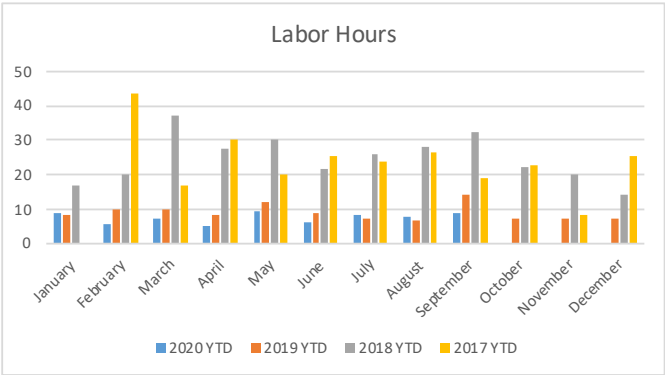
	Labor Hours	Bags of Litter Removed	Camps Removed
Jan-18	17	5	0
Feb-18	20	12	0
Mar-18	37	32	4
Apr-18	27.5	14	0
May-18	30.5	20	5
Jun-18	21.5	21	5
Jul-18	26	13	3
Aug-18	28	13	3
Sep-18	32.5	10	1
Oct-18	22.5	14	6
Nov-18	20	5	0
Dec-18	14	5	0
<b>Total 2018</b>	<b>296.5</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>27</b>



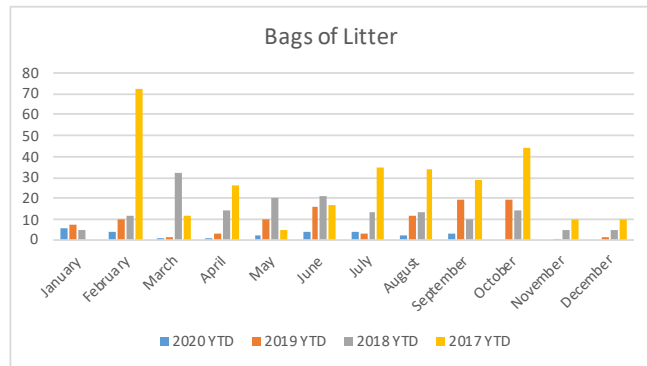
	Labor Hours	Bags of Litter Removed	Camps Removed
Feb-17	43.5	72.5	4
Mar-17	17	12	3
Apr-17	30	26	0
May-17	20	5	0
Jun-17	25.5	17	2
Jul-17	24	35	3
Aug-17	26.5	34	3
Sep-17	19	29	2
Oct-17	23	44	1
Nov-17	8.5	10	3
Dec-17	25.5	10	1
<b>Total 2017</b>	<b>262.5</b>	<b>294.5</b>	<b>22</b>



Labor Hours	2020 YTD	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	2017 YTD
January	8.75	8.3	17	0
February	5.67	10.2	20	43.5
March	7.25	10	37	17
April	4.9	8.5	27.5	30
May	9.625	11.9	30.5	20
June	6.25	9	21.5	25.5
July	8.5	7.5	26	24
August	7.875	6.9	28	26.5
September	9	14.25	32.5	19
October		7.3	22.5	23
November		7.5	20	8.5
December		7.3	14	25.5



Bags of Litter Removed	2020 YTD	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	2017 YTD
January	5.5	7	5	0
February	4.33	10.3	12	72.5
March	0.25	1.5	32	12
April	0.4	3.25	14	26
May	2.5	10.25	20	5
June	3.75	16	21	17
July	4.25	3	13	35
August	2.25	11.5	13	34
September	3.4	19.25	10	29
October		19.4	14	44
November		0.875	5	10
December		1.2	5	10





Camps Removed	2020 YTD	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	2017 YTD
January	0	0	0	0
February	0	3	0	4
March	0	1	4	3
April	0	6	0	0
May	3	3	5	0
June	2	3	5	2
July	1	3	3	3
August	3	6	3	3
September	0	10	1	2
October		6	6	1
November		4	0	3
December		3	0	1

